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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/374,681	09/19/2002	CRAIG H. BAKER	81762/210	4027

7590 04/13/2004

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EXAMINER
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FEILD, LYNN DIANA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/374,681	Applicant(s) BAKER ET AL.	
	Examiner Son V Nguyen	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 0200 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. The amendment filed 1/26/2004 is acknowledged. It consists of changes to the drawings, the specification, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, added new claims 6-17, and remarks related to the claims. The claims are not allowable as explained below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ostapovitch (US 4,076,369).

The claimed invention reads on Ostapovitch as follows:

Regarding claims 1, 8 and 14, Ostapovitch discloses an electrical socket contact [10, figures 4-6] and a method of making/mating the socket contact with a pin contact [indicated in a full outline 20, figure 6], comprising:

- an electrically conductive body [11] having a pin contact engaging bore; and

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- the body [11] comprises two guide portions [28, 28] are read on applicant's at least two pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements extending into the bore, wherein the arc-shaped receiving elements are spaced apart across the bore and having a distance that is greater than a maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact [figures 4 and 6], and a plurality of spring contacts [25, 27] spaced in from the arc-shaped receiving elements along the bore.

Regarding claims 2, 9 and 15, Ostapovitch also discloses an aperture [figure 4] defined in the body between a contact [25], a side [17] and a pin contact arc-shaped receiving element [28].

Regarding claims 3 and 10, Ostapovitch also discloses the pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements [28] comprises stamped or curved inwardly extending projections [figure 4].

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Ostapovitch also discloses the socket contact [11] is formed a single sheet of material [figure 4].

Regarding claim 5, Ostapovitch also discloses when the pin contact is inserted into the bore, the pin takes place in the sequence of: contact with the socket contact itself (at a front edge of the socket contact, figure 4), then the arc-shaped receiving elements [28, 28] and then a domed contact areas [27, 27] of the spring contacts.

All the elements recited in the claims are read in the reference, and the method claims are inherit of the product claims.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6, 12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostapovitch in view of Henricus op ten Berg (US 5,554,056).

Ostapovitch discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for a latch spaced in from the spring contacts along the bore.

Henricus op ten Berg discloses a socket contact [2, figure 1] comprises a latch [16] spaced in from spring contacts [30] along a bore defined between the spring contacts.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the socket contact of Ostapovitch to provide the latch as taught by Henricus op ten Berg in order to facilitate retaining the socket contact within a connector housing, as is well known in the art of the electrical connector.

6. Claims 7, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostapovitch in view of Borne et al. (France Patent No. 2 512 283).

Ostapovitch discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, are receiving elements.

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Borne et al. discloses a socket contact [14, figure 6] comprises a closed loop, front body section having a plurality of bosses [26, figure 1] formed therein, the bosses are read on applicant's the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, are receiving elements.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify a front portion of the socket contact with the pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements of Ostapovitch to provide the closed loop front body section having a plurality of bosses as taught by Borne et al. in order to provide more strength and reduce torsional stresses on the body of the socket contact.

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Ostapovitch discloses an electrical socket contact [10, figures 4-6] and a method of making/mating the socket contact with a pin contact [indicated in a full outline 20, figure 6], comprising at least two pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements [28, 28] extending into the bore, wherein the arc-shaped receiving elements are spaced apart across the bore and having a distance that is greater than a maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact [figures 4 and 6], and a plurality of spring contacts [25, 27] spaced in from the arc-shaped receiving elements along the bore, as applicant newly amended in the claims.

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Borne et al. teaches a socket contact [14, figure 6] comprises a closed loop, front body section having a plurality of bosses [26, figure 1] formed therein, the bosses are read on applicant's the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, are receiving elements.

### *Conclusion*

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

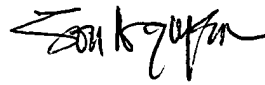
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son V Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2097. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

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supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
**SON V. NGUYEN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**

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March 18, 2004